

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02628 290819Z

16

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EA-10 EUR-12 ARA-10 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-03 SIL-01

OMB-01 IGA-01 L-02 /096 W
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R 271730Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1478

UNCLAS ALGIERS 2628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, OTRA, AG

SUBJ: VISIT OF ALGERIAN GRAIN PURCHASER TO WASHINGTON,
DECEMBER 9, 1974

REF: ALGIERS 1856

1. HADJ MKHTAR LOUHIBI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
ALGERIAN CEREAL OFFICE (OAIC) INTENDS TO VISIT
WASHINGTON WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 1974. EMBASSY UNDER-
STANDS HE HAS BEEN TRAVELING IN PAKISTAN AND CHINA AND
WILL ARRIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO ABOUT DECEMBER 2.

2. WE UNDERSTAND DURING WEEK OF DECEMBER 2, LOUHIBI
IS TO MEET WITH FORD FOUNDATION OFFICIALS IN ARIZONA
ON WHEAT GROWING IN DRY REGIONS. HE HAS ALSO TALKED
TO MORRISON-KNUDSEN ABOUT IRRIGATION PROJECTS.
FINALLY, PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL IS TRYING TO ARRANGE
TRIP BY LOUHIBI TO ANNUAL MEETING IN AMARILLO, TEXAS.
SEE REFTEL ON PRODUCERS.

3. LOUHIBI WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WHILE IN
WASHINGTON. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT COORDINATE WITH
ALGERIAN EMBASSY AS ONLY WAY TO CONTACT LOUHIBI.
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02628 290819Z

4. DURING DURHAM EXPERT TEAM'S MEETING WITH LOUHIBI, LOUHIBI EMPAHSIZED HIS DESIRE TO CONTRACT FOR FURTHER LARGE ORDERS OF DURUM WHEAT (HE CITED FIGURE OF A MILLION TONS) IN ADDITION TO CANADIAN AND RECENT ARGENTINIAN CONTRACTS. THESE PURCHASE CONTRACTS ARE FOR GOING WORLD PRICE AT TIME OF SHIPMENT.

5. OAIC HAS STILL, DESPITE PRODDINGS, NEVER COME BACK TO EMBASSY WITH ALGERIAN PRODUCTION OR CONSUMPTION FIGURES. AT LAST MEETING LOUHIBI DID SAY USDA'S FIGURES FOR ALGERIA SUBMITTED BY EMBASSY WERE QUITE ACCURATE. WITH EARLY RAINS LOUHIBI IS OPTIMISTIC RE GOOD CROPS IN ALGERIA THIS YEAR.
PARKER

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